

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 12/23/2009 has been entered and considered by Examiner.
2. Independent claims 1 and 64 are allowable. Accordingly, the requirement for Restriction/ Species, as set forth in the Office action mailed on 04/23/2009, has been reconsidered in view of the allowability of claims 1 and 64, to the elected invention pursuant to MPEP § 821.04(a). **The restriction requirement as to the encompassed species is hereby withdrawn as to any claim that requires all the limitations of the allowable claims 1 and 64.** Claims 8, 19, 30-34, 38-39, and 74-78, directed to no longer withdrawn from consideration because the claim(s) requires all the limitations of an allowable claim.

In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement, applicant is advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Douglas Holtz on 02/08/2010.

In claim 1, line 9, insert -- ", **a line at a time**" -- after "applying".

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-25, 27-39, 64-71, 73-78 are allowed.
5. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1:

The closest prior art of record Kasai (US Pub No: 20030040149A1) discloses a display device for displaying image information(i.e. image at display pixel) according to a display signal (i.e. signal atX1-Xm) consisting of digital signals (data corresponding to a bit, [0048]) comprising: a display panel (i.e. 101) comprising a plurality of signal lines (i.e. X1-Xm) and a plurality of scanning lines (i.e. Y1-YN) which intersect at right angles with each other, and a plurality of display pixels (plurality of display pixels 200) with optical elements (i.e. EL element) arranged near the intersecting point of the plurality of signal lines and the plurality of scanning lines ([0029-0030]). Kasi also teach

a scanning driver circuit (i.e. 103) and a signal driver circuit (i.e. 102) comprising a plurality of current generation circuits (300, Fig. 2) [0034]; the current generation circuits (300) comprise at least a gradation current generation circuit (310); the gradation current generation circuit (310) generates a plurality of gradation currents corresponding to 8 bit data signals based on constant , predetermined reference current [0009], and a drive current generation circuit (320) generates drive current from the plurality of gradation currents (current from 310) based on the value of the display signal which supplies the generated drive current to each signal line (data lines) ([0043-0044], [0053] , [0061], and Fig. 5).

Yamazaki (US Patent No: 6528951 B2) teaches wherein the drive current generation circuit (8801) generates the drive current (current through S_a to S_d) based on the value of the display signal (column 25, lines 5-28).

However, both Kasai and Yamazaki do not teach or suggest **"a specified state setting circuit which supplies a specified voltage to the corresponding signal line to drive the corresponding optical element in a specified operation state instead of supplying the drive current, when the display signals have a specified value that sets all of the plurality of gradation currents in a non-selection state.**

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Shaheda Abdin whose telephone number is (571) 270-1673.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard HJerpe could be reached at (571) 272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about PAIR system, see <http://pari-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Shaheda Abdin

01/29/2010

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/Richard Hjerpe/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629

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